

REMARKS

Claims 20, 21, 23 and 24 are now pending in this application. Claims 20 and 23 are independent. Claims 22 and 25 have been canceled, and no claims have been amended or added by this Amendment after Final Rejection.

The present Amendment after Final Rejection merely cancels non-allowed claims so as to place the application in condition for allowance.

Unpatentability Rejection over Maeda et al. in View of Applicants' Admitted Art

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 22 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Maeda et al. (US 5,420,838) in view of Applicants Admitted Prior Art is requested. These claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thus rendering the rejection moot so as to place the application in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 20, 21, 23 and 24 are allowed. As stated above, non-allowed claims 22 and 25 have been canceled.

The Examiner has stated his reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse these Reasons. Specifically, Applicants submit that the subject matter of the allowed claims are patentable for their respective recitations of claimed combinations as a whole. That is, the patentability of the claims rests on the combination of recited elements and limitations. As such, Applicants submit that no one element or limitation in particular should be deemed to impart or be required for patentability of the claims. Furthermore, Applicants also submit that the dependent claims are allowable not only for their dependence on the allowed independent claims, but also for the additional subject matter recited in each of those dependent claims.

Further, Applicants have cancelled claims 22 and 25 from further consideration in this application. Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable

over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Conclusion

All matters having been addressed and in view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of all pending claims.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final, in that it raises no new issues, but merely places the claims in a form more clearly patentable over the references of record. In the alternative, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final in that it reduces the issues for appeal.

In the event the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues in this case, the Undersigned Attorney is available at the telephone number indicated below.

YONEZAWA -- 10/603,989
Attorney Docket: 008312-0304491
Amendment After Final Rejection mailed 8/20/2007

Although no fees are believed to be due with this Amendment, for any fees that are due during the pendency of this application, please charge Deposit Account Number 03-3975 under Order No. 008312-0304491 from which the Undersigned Attorney is authorized to draw. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Date: November 20, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic Signature: /Larry J. Hume/

Larry J. Hume

Registration No.: 44,163

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP

P.O. Box 10500

McLean, VA 22102

(703) 770-7900 (switchboard)

(703) 770-7981 (direct)

(703) 770-7901 (fax)

e-mail: Larry.Hume@pillsburylaw.com

Attorney for Applicant